Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01205 040007Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 FBIE-00 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 /120 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01205

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, CU, US
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FORMER GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ-COLON ON COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REF: A) 77USUN 5650 B) 77USUN 3129

1. FORMER GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO RAFAEL HERNANDEZ-COLON (RHC) CALLED ON MISOFFS ON MARCH 27 FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH CUBAN PERMREP ALARCON. RHC SAID THAT ALARCON EXPECTS C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO TO BE SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR, BUT WITH MORE PUERTO RICAN PETITIONERS. RHC NOTED THAT THE C-24 WILL MEET SHORTLY BEFORE THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ON OCTOBER 1 AND THAT THE PETITIONERS WILL BE PLAYING TO THE PRIMARY AUDIENCE.

2. RHC EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECT OF PUBLICATION OF FBI DOCUMENTS, SOME SIGNED BY HOOVER, CONCERNING FBI INTERVENTION IN THE PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PROCESS, PARTICULARLY EFFORTS TO SPLINTER THE INDEPENDENCE FORCES. HE IS SURE THAT WE WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH THE "HARD EVIDENCE" OF THIS INTERVENTION
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01205 040007Z

DURING C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. RHC ADVOCATES A U.S. STATEMENT WHICH: CONDEMNS THE FBI ACTIVITIES, STATES THAT THEY HAVE CEASED AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE FUTURE AND CHARACTERIZES THEM AS "STUPID" SINCE THE INDEPENDENCE FORCES WERE ALREADY SO SPLINTERED AND SMALL THAT, EVEN IF THEY HAD ALL COALESCED, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE FORMED A SIZEABLE

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

MINORITY. RHC IS CONCERNED THAT THE FBI REVELATIONS WILL HURT US WITH FRIENDS ON THE C-24 WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE U.S. POSITION IN THE PAST.

3. RHC ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN HIS LETTER OF SEPT. 6, 1977 (REF B). MISOFF NOTED THAT HIS VIEWS HAD BEEN FAITHFULLY TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT THE IDEAS HAD BEEN GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

4. RHC SAID THAT HE IS CONCERNED THAT A C-24 RESOLUTION CHARACTERIZING PUERTO RICO'S STATUS AS "COLONIAL" COULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR A PLEBISCITE IN PUERTO RICO EXCLUDING A COMMONWEALTH OPTION. EXPRESSING PESSIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS IN THE COMMITTEE, RHC SUGGESTED THAT IF IT APPEARED LIKELY THAT THE COMMITTEE WERE GOING TO ADOPT A CUBAN RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO, WE SHOULD TRY TO HAVE IT INCLUDE "FREE ASSOCIATION" (AS DEFINED BY GA RESOLUTION 1541) AS A LEGITIMATE ALTERNATIVE. HE SAID THAT ALARCON TOLD HIM THAT CUBA RECOGNIZES THE LEGITIMACY OF FREE ASSOCIATION BUT NOT THE PRESENT COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP -- NOTING, INTER ALIA, THE INABILITY OF PUERTO RICO TO OBTAIN THE PROMISED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP. A CUBAN RESOLUTION CHARACTERIZING THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP AS COLONIAL WOULD HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

EVERY SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCE IN PUERTO RICO, ACCORDING TO RHC.

5. COMMENTING ON THE UPCOMING DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY IN PUERTO RICO, RHC SAID THAT IT IS TURNING INTO A STATUS REFERNDUM. NOTING THE COMPLEX MACHINATIONS RELATED TO THE PRIMARY AND REFERRING TO THE PROSCRIPTION IN GA RESOLUTION 742 OF INTERVENTION BY THE METROPOLITAN POWER IN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESS, RHC SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE SOME ANSWERS READY TO POSSIBLE ALLEGATIONS THAT A NATIONAL PRIMARY IN PUERTO RICO CONSTITUTES INTERVENTION IN ITS INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESS. RHC SAID THAT THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO FIELD OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE UPCOMING C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. LEONARD

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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20 Mar 2014
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